Maintenance of NH-2 and 8

†3245. SHRI PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy losses are being incurred constantly for the last three years due to irregularities and faults in the maintenance of National Highways Nos. 2 and 8 in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of action taken against the contractor in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of International Shipyards

3246. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are exploring the possibility of setting up two international shipyards in the country subject to favourable technical analysis and feasibility; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including new coastal sites/existing shipyards identified, if any, for the purpose and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is exploring the possibility of setting up two international size shipyards in the country subject to favourable technical analysis and feasibility study. The sites are yet to be identified.

Metal scrap at Nhava Sheva

3247. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the pile up of heavy metal scrap at Nhava Sheva International Container terminal is likely to lead to increased congestion this year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that heavy metal scrap accounts for 4000-5000 Total Equivalent Unit of total arrivals and unavailability of railway wagons to transport this scrap is adding to the port's troubles; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ease the congestion at JNPT?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) The pendency of heavy metal containers at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) including Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) is in the range of 1175 TEUs (Twenty Foot Equivalent Units) out of which rail bound pendency is around 1000 TEUs and remaining 175 are those to be delivered at local Container Freight Stations (CFS). The pendency is within control and is not likely to cause congestion. Volume of heavy metal scrap at JNPT is about 4000 TEUs per month. The recent rainfall in Mumbai and adjoining areas disrupted the rail operations and movement of containers to inland destinations were affected. The movement has now been restored and Railways have reported that there is no shortage of wagons to transport containers including scrap loaded containers. Government has appointed a task force to tackle the problems of congestion at JN Port which advises Port on issues relating to congestion.

Maintenance of NHs in NER

3248. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways (NHs) traversing through the North-Eastern India, in the particular, have been subjected to repair/maintenance at regular intervals;

(b) the details thereof, including the nature of work carried out on most occasions with particular reference to those carried out in National Highway-53;

(c) the number of bridges along NH-53 in the North-East, including present age of respective structure alongwith details of work for repair/ restoration and/or strengthening carried out, in any, in the last three years;

(d) whether any bridge suffered damage recently; and